

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday April 7th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Barth. He opened the meeting with a prayer by Pastor Steve Eyers and then the Pledge of Allegiance by all.

Roll call was taken with the following present: Mayor Michael Barth; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Administrator Cory Wann; Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith; Council Members Toni Egly, Kent Miller, Eric Bassett, Charlie Martin and Rob Bailey. Councilman Ron Beverly was absent.

Michelle Davis from Medicount was here to speak to council about the EMS billing program and to answer any questions they may have. She gave a brief overview of how billing/payments work. Medicare turnaround is about 30 days, Medicaid is 30-45 days, and most insurance companies are 120 days. She also talked about contractual obligations, specifically Medicare and their "allowance". Medicount bills insurance and accepts what they allow per patient. They do not bill patients directly. Mayor Barth asked how the village can improve the outcome. Ms. Davis said it is all about the documentation. Make sure every detail is documented into a complete report before it is sent on to be billed. She said small rural hospitals are closing all over the state causing mileage costs and "out of service" time to increase. 2025 will be the first complete year of collections and will show a more complete picture of the village.

Minutes from the March 17th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve with a correction, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be approved was presented. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions: The **Nuisance Board** met on Tuesday, March 25th at 10 am in the council chambers. Minutes were in the packets.

The **Planning Commission** met Thursday, March 27th at 6 pm in the council chambers to discuss a Zoning Change. Minutes were in the packets

Council Committees: No meetings were held.

NOTE: All committee meeting minutes are available in their entirety in the Fiscal Officer's office at 111 South Main Street, Hicksville or by email request to hixcs@defnet.com. All council meetings are shown on YouTube, and minutes are on the website.

Administrator's Report: Cory Wann had the following report:

1. Monitoring Well Drilling

- **Status:** Drilling commenced on Friday, April 4, 2025.
- **Expected Completion:** The project is anticipated to be wrapped up by the end of this week.
- **Project Details:** ODNR and Watson Well Drilling are overseeing the installation of the monitoring well. This is for ODNR to monitor the water table.

2. Defiance Avenue Lift Station Project

- **Bid Opening Date:** April 2, 2025
- **Bid Results:** JDY submitted the lowest bid at **\$493,488.99**, considerably lower than the engineer's estimate of **\$673,434**.
- **Substantial Completion Date:** The substantial completion for the project is set for **November 7, 2025**.
- **Next Steps:** The bid will be reviewed, and the project is expected to move forward with JDY as the contractor.

3. Meeting with Justin Niese from ODOT

- **Meeting Date:** April 16, 2025
- **Purpose:** A meeting with Justin Niese from ODOT will be held to inspect and review the State routes passing through the Village.
- **Agenda:** The inspection will focus on road conditions, needed repairs, and any upcoming improvements for the State routes.

4. Elm Street Water Main Replacement Project

- **Bid Opening Date:** May 8, 2025
- **Project Timeline:** The goal is for full completion of the Elm Street water main replacement project by **October 2025**.
- **Next Steps:** The bid opening on May 8th will help determine the contractor for the project, with work anticipated to begin shortly thereafter.

In addition to the report Wann let council know he is getting quotes to repair Industrial Drive. So far the range is \$40,000 to \$70,000 depending on the length to be repaired.

Bruce Guilford is building a day care center next to the Senior Center. He would like the village to do the curbing. Toni Egly asked if the village has ever done a job request like this in the past. Kent Miller (former administrator) said not that he remembers.

Current employee Josh Hubbell (WWTP) has been moved to the WTP to replace Felix Salinas. Wann would like to have the mayor recommend Matt Justice be hired as a Laborer II for the WWTP after a physical, drug screen and BCI. He will also have 18 months to get a CDL and Class I WWTP license. He has a construction, mechanical and electrical background. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Kent Miller reminded Wann that his transferred employee failed to get his WWTP license - will he be required to get a WTP license now? And will he follow through?

Solicitor's Report:

- Second reading of **Ordinance 2025-03** by caption only authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds.
- Second reading of **Ordinance 2025-04** by caption only to amend appropriations.
- First reading of **Resolution 2025-07** by caption only to enter contract with JDY Excavating LLC for the Defiance Avenue Lift Station Replacement Project and declaring an emergency. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2025-07 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.
- First reading of **Resolution 2025-08** by caption only authorizing the mayor to sign an agreement with the Ohio Attorney General for delinquent debt collection and declaring an emergency. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rob Bailey. All votes yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2025-

08 by caption only. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

Toni Egly would like to have a pay ordinance for the K9 handler brought to council.

The Solicitor said the American Tower/Verizon contract is waiting for the survey. The contract from 2022 between Hicksville and CIC has been received. She is working on it.

She is also working with Zoning Official Jared Radford to update several ordinances.

The new law just passed concerning law enforcement car videos and body cameras will need legislation. She will bring it to the next meeting.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning had March Calls and Cases. He said the department has received a grant (about \$13,000.00) for body cameras. It will cover the cost charged for the Axon two-year contract. Chief Denning is upset with the new insurance coverage (Medical Mutual). He said he has asked numerous times to have an insurance committee look into new insurance. Kent Miller said in the 21 years he has been here the insurance committee did not meet once. The Chief is not happy with BORMA. "We can find insurance with a cheaper premium ourselves". His spouse has gotten her prescriptions 2 or 3 times early in the past, but now she is told they cannot be released early. She will have to come back on the 22nd. His daughter also has trouble getting her medication refilled. He knows of at least 7 different HB's and SB's that have been written complaining about insurance. He also doesn't like the cost he has to pay. Some towns pay 100% for their employees. Eric Bassett said the village already pays 85%. Kent Miller asked the Chief if he would be ok with the premium going up. He said he would be. Eric Bassett asked if other departments complain or just the PD.*

Fire Chief: *Darrick Crochran was absent.*

EMS Chief: *Bruce Silcott reported the 3 firemen who were in the EMT Basic class have all passed and will now take their National Registry to be certified. They will ride along with seasoned EMTs until they are approved to go out on their own. Abbye Franz's last day is Friday. When she finishes her maternity leave, she has been hired away and will not return. Silcott would like to try using part-time employees to fill out the schedule and see how that goes. Rebecca will move to 2nd shift and part-timers will cover 3rd shift.*

Park Director: *New Director Christina Tadsen introduced herself to council. She reported on the early projects she has been working on, including mowing, rolling the grass, cleaning around the pavilion and memorial and stocking the restrooms. She and Carson Shull (her groundskeeper) have been busy getting the playing fields ready for softball and baseball.*

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted to Council:

- Current Fund Status and Cash Summary Report.
- March Utility and Income Tax Collections Reports.
- March PD and Mayor's Court Collections Reports.
- 1st Quarter EMS Collections Report.
- 1st half Property Tax Collections.
- Request for Indigent Burial - contract with funeral home needs to be renegotiated.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barth reported a Good Friday service will be held at the Cornerstone Church on April 18th at 6 pm. All are invited to attend.

He reminded the public of the 150th Celebration to be held June 5th through the 7th.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 12th at 1 pm in the park. Registration begins at 11:30.

Foster Parents are needed. If any family would like to apply to be foster parents, contact the mayor for more information.

Mayor Barth was asked again about selling the property in Oak Park and on Antwerp Dr. Both sites are costing money by paying property tax and mowing/weed cutting costs, and they are not being used in any way by the village. The issue was sent to Street/Light/Property Committee to possibly set up an auction.

Charlie Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor